

Message

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Report Highlights

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## Highlights

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### LEADING THE NEWS

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#### U.S. Cheers Fossil Fuels, Derides Concerns at Climate Talks

By Bobby Magill

The U.S. government promoted fossil fuels on the sidelines of the international climate talks on Dec. 10 as part of its rejection of action on climate change and the science that supports it.

#### Backers See Permanent Extension for Conservation Fund

By Dean Scott

Backers of a conservation fund popular with both Democrats and Republicans are on the verge of winning a permanent extension, likely as part of a massive congressional spending deal needed to avoid a government shutdown four days before Christmas.

## Air Permit Flexibility Not Going Beyond Power Sector: EPA's Wehrum

By Amena H. Saiyid

The EPA doesn't have any plans to extend the proposed air permitting flexibility for power plants to other industrial sectors, the agency's air chief says.

## Pick for Brazil's Environment Ministry Accused of Favoring Industry

By Michael Kepp

President-elect Jair Bolsonaro's pick to be Brazil's next environment minister got a thumbs-down from activist groups who say he will champion agriculture and other development activities at the expense of the environment.

## **TODAY'S NEWS**

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### Sierra Club's Gripe With EPA Air Monitoring Rule Puzzles Judge

By Amena H. Saiyid

A federal appeals court judge tried in vain to understand why or how the public is being deprived from commenting on states' plans to monitor air quality, as an environmental group asserted during oral arguments Dec. 10.

### Carbon-Free Mandate Among Upcoming Washington State Climate Bills

By Paul Shukovsky

Washington state would mandate 100 percent carbon-free energy, boost electric vehicles, and adopt stricter energy efficiency standards for buildings under climate-related bills that state Democratic legislators and Gov. Jay Inslee (D) unveiled Dec. 10.

### Energy Not Spending FY 2018 Research, Renewable Funds, Group Says (1)

By Rebecca Kern

The Energy Department didn't spend all of its fiscal year 2018 funding for its offices of advanced research projects and renewables, and Congress is being asked to investigate.

## **BP, Shell to Face New Shareholder Challenge Over Climate in 2019**

By Kelly Gilblom

The activists who rankled Royal Dutch Shell Plc by filing climate change resolutions for three straight years now are targeting other oil majors.

## **Shut Down Illinois Medical Equipment Sterilizer, House Member Says**

By Stephen Joyce

Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) wants a Willowbrook, Ill., facility emitting ethylene oxide, a suspected carcinogen, to shut down unless data can show the facility isn't a threat to human health.

## **Kellogg Bars, Oat Cereal Have Weedkiller Residue, Suit Says (1)**

By Julie Steinberg

Kellogg Co.'s strawberry Nutrigrain bars and Cracklin' Oat Bran Cereal are deceptively marketed as healthy when they contain traces of the weed-killer glyphosate, a new proposed class suit alleges.

## **CFOs Warned to Adjust Businesses to Rising Cost of Carbon**

By Joe McGrath

European CFOs, who could see company profitability hit by the soaring cost of carbon credits, must act to protect their future viability, business leaders warned.

## **U.S. Pitches Funding for Mini-Coal Plants at U.N. Climate Talks**

By Jeremy Hodges

The Department of Energy said it was close to awarding research and development funding for proposals to build modular, or mini-coal plants, after already pledging as much as \$175 million for small facilities burning the fuel.

## **Asset Managers Team Up to Pressure Governments on Climate Change**

By Kelly Gilblom

Institutional investors increasingly concerned about climate change have teamed up to ask governments to set tougher policies.

## **Norway Liberals Seek Severe Oil Restrictions in Government Talks**

By Mikael Holter

Norway's Liberal Party will try to use upcoming negotiations to broaden the country's government coalition to impose tough restrictions on the oil industry in order to step up the fight against climate change.

## **Enterprize Plans World's Biggest Offshore Wind Farm in Vietnam**

By Bloomberg News

A proposed offshore wind power project in Vietnam could have total capacity of 3.4 gigawatts and require investments of \$11.9 billion, according to one of the developers, setting it on course to be the world's biggest.

## **\$1.5B Syngenta Deal, \$500M for Class Counsel Get Final OK**

By Perry Cooper

Syngenta AG will pay more than \$1.5 billion to U.S. farmers who alleged the marketing of the company's genetically modified corn seeds shut them out of the Chinese market, after the settlement won final approval Dec. 7.

## **Commission Asks For Time to Consider Chinese Refrigerant Duties**

By Brian Flood

The International Trade Commission needs more time to determine if hydrofluorocarbon component imports from China should face U.S. antidumping duties, the commission said Dec. 7.

## **Water Act Felony Claims Over Gulf Coast Oil Spill Proceed**

By Peter Hayes

A shipyard supervisor failed to shake off criminal Clean Water Act charges stemming from a welding accident and explosions on an offshore oil platform that released oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

## **Shell Subsidiaries Get Gas Lease Suit Sent to Arbitrator**

By Perry Cooper

A class action over oil and gas rights against two subsidiaries of Royal Dutch Shell should have been sent to arbitration, the Sixth Circuit said Dec. 10 in an unpublished opinion.

## **INSIGHT**

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### **INSIGHT: Animal Protection and the Changing Landscape of Regulatory Testing**

In the fall of 1998, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals received a call from a high-level official with a multinational corporation. The caller notified the organization that the EPA was on the verge of launching a massive animal testing program known as the "High Production Volume Chemical Challenge Program." Jessica Sandler with PETA outlines how the animal protection community organized to work with regulators to refine testing and reduce animal use.

## **WEEKEND WRAPUP**

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### **EPA Plans Review of Toxic Air Limits by Next Month, Wehrum Says**

By Amena H. Saiyid

The EPA plans to publish its review of Obama-era toxic air pollution limits by the end of the month or early January, the agency's air chief said Dec. 7.

## **California's Delta Tunnels Plan Pulled Due to 'Unresolved Issues' (2)**

By Emily C. Dooley

California's plan to build two massive tunnels to supply Southern California with water from the northern part of the state was withdrawn from the Delta Stewardship Council Dec. 7, raising questions about the project's future.

## **EPA Climate Finding Questions Could Pave Way for Methane Rule Rewrite**

By Abby Smith

The EPA wants to define a threshold for the amount of pollution required to pose a significant threat to public health and prompt controls, a move that could raise questions about limits on oil and gas methane emissions, the agency's air chief said.

## **South Carolina Court Handed Firefighting Foam Cases**

By Sylvia Carignan

Tyco Fire Products LP and Chemguard Inc. will face allegations in federal court in South Carolina that their firefighting foam contaminated groundwater around the country.

## **Chemical Makers Seek to Boost U.S.-Canadian Regulatory Cooperation**

By Adam Allington

U.S. and Canadian companies are calling for more action to streamline cross-border trade in chemicals.

## **Judges Debate if Regulator Assessed Gas Pipeline's Climate Impact (Corrected)**

By Rebecca Kern

Energy regulators satisfied environmental review requirements by considering whether a pipeline's downstream greenhouse gas emissions would have a significant impact on the climate, a federal appeals court judge said Dec. 7.

### **Offshore Wind Farm Must Mitigate Marine Life Harms, Feds Say**

By Adrienne Appel

The nation's second offshore wind project, planned for the Massachusetts coast, could disturb commercial fisheries, endangered whales, and sea turtles during construction and operation, but protective measures are available, according to a Dec. 7 federal report.

### **Pennsylvania Redeveloper to Defend Use of PCB-Laced Fill Material**

By Sylvia Carignan

A Pennsylvania company working to reclaim an abandoned mine is challenging the EPA's determination that the company potentially violated a federal chemical waste law and state permit.

### **Tesla Taps Musk's Lawyer as New General Counsel**

By Dana Hull

Tesla Inc. has tapped Dane Butswinkas, the Washington trial lawyer who represented Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk in his legal battle with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, to be the company's new general counsel.

### **Total Denied Brazil Offshore Drilling Licenses in Amazon Reef**

By Sabrina Valle

Total SA was denied permission to drill five deep-water blocks in the Amazon Reef off Brazil's coast over biodiversity concerns.

### **Low Demand Results in Little Power Sold at Brazil Auction**

By Michael Kepp

Low demand for short-term energy resulted in generators and traders selling only small amounts of existing power to distributors at Brazil's Dec. 7 energy auction.

# Bloomberg Environment

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